GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:175
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2016
Civil Nuclear Deal with UK
Singh Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a)whether India has finalized the civil nuclear deal with the United Kingdom and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b)whether the Government has taken cognizance of the World Nuclear Industry Report, 2015 which States the decline of Britain"s nuclear industry;

(c)if so, the details thereof and its impact on the India-UK nuclear deal; and

(d)the rationale behind the Government opting for nuclear energy versus developing and collaborating on renewable energy?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH) :

(a)An Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was signed on 13 November 2015, during the visit of Hon"ble Prime Minister to U.K. The scope of cooperation inter alia covers the supply of nuclear material, non-nuclear material, equipment, components or technology, training of personnel and transfer of technology, for peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

(b) &(c)The U.K. Government"s recently stated energy policy is to increase the share of nuclear power in U.K."s energy mix, to phase out coal-based power. Therefore, the decrease in the share of nuclear power in 2015 in U.K. as reported by the World Nuclear Industry Report, 2015 appears to be a phenomenon unlikely to have a short term impact on the India-U.K. Agreement for cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which is premised on India"s growing requirement for nuclear power for its low-carbon growth strategy as well as U.K."s technological expertise in this field.

(d)The Government is cognizant of the importance of both nuclear energy and renewable energy resources for India"s growth strategy fuelled by clean energy. Accordingly, cooperation with major international partners such as U.K. includes both nuclear energy and renewable energy. Some of the important initiatives between India and U.K. in the area of renewable energy announced during Prime Minister"s visit to U.K. in November 2015 include :(i) setting up a new Virtual Centre on Clean Energy (ii) setting up of India Innovation Lab for Green Finance (iii) U.K."s support for India"s new Global Solar Alliance initiative. Separately, commercial deals worth 3.2 billion pounds were finalized with U.K. in the area of clean energy during the visit. Similarly, Prime Minister of India and President of France jointly launched in Paris on 30 November 2015 an International Solar Alliance (ISA) initiative, with its headquarters in Gurgaon, India, to enhance the use of solar energy globally.

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